





## "The Brat" Keeps Springer Going to the Dogs

When people say someone has really gone to the dogs, they usually mean it as a derogatory comment. However, if you say that about Kay Springer, Manager of Passenger Services, she really doesn't mind.

Kay has been exhibiting German Shepherd Dogs, in both conformation and obedience for 10 years, along with being an obedience trainer for the Arydith Obedience School in Moraga.

In September, 1989, her male was the number eight-ranked German Shepherd Dog in the country. Last year he had 22 Best of Breeds, two Group 1's and multiple group placings. Considering that thousands of German Shepherd Dogs are shown each year, that is quite an accomplishment. His name is Champion R. Beth's Red Knight, TC, CD, also known as "Daago" or "The Brat". Those titles and initials before and after his name mean that he is a breed champion, has a Companion Dog Obedience degree (CD) and has also passed a Temperament Test (TC) administered by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

A national ranking is based on the number of dogs that a particular dog has bested at shows put on by the American Kennel Club. It's an achievement that's not easy to come by and a dog has to have that "extra something special" to achieve such a ranking. **b3**



Kay Springer and her German Shepherd Dog "The Brat," more formally known as Champion R. Beth's Red Knight, TC, CD.



## Celebrating May 5 on May 4

BART's Cinco de Mayo salute to the Mexican victory over the French at Pueblo on May 5, 1862, will actually be held at the LMA Plaza on Cuarto de Mayo, the day before the official commemoration.

BART's Cinco de Mayo celebrations, which include traditional music, costumes and dance, are customarily attended by local and BART officials and the Consul General of Mexico.

The French Army, although expertly trained and well equipped, was no match for the bravery and resolution of the Mexican Army, whose soldiers were determined to throw the invading French out of Mexico and to send a message around the world that Mexico intended to remain an independent republic.

Again this year, the Cinco de Mayo festivities are under the coordination of Linda Vasquez. If you want to help make this year's event as successful as ever, call Lourdes (Lulu) Watts on Ext. 6275.



Community groups participating in Cinco de Mayo activities are Amigos (Oakland city employees), Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundations, Spanish Speaking Unity Council and the Latino Officers Association of Alameda County. **b3**



Congratulations are in order for Kevin O'Keefe, a train operator at BART since 1973. Kevin was recently elected to a three-year term as president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555, which covers approximately 560 BART employees. Maybe it would be more appropriate to say to Kevin, "Top o' the mornin'".

Looking for a good book? Some jewelry, maybe? How about a watch, a purse, a radio, a tape recorder or even a bicycle? You might find what you're looking for

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Two BART building maintenance workers are shown lending a hand at the recent groundbreaking ceremonies for BART's new 1,400-space parking garage at the El Cerrito Del Norte Station. The parking structure, the first of several to be built under BART's \$90 million station access and parking improvements program, is expected to be completed in the spring of 1991. The men are Ron White, with the shovel, and Charles Alexander.



Station Agent Barbara Boyle receives a plaque honoring her as Operations Training Instructor of the Year from Alex Braun, Manager of Training and Development. Boyle recently taught station agent certification classes. Obviously pleased to be on hand for the award is Gerald Collins, transportation supervisor.



Four BART grounds maintenance foreworkers recently completed a 19-week training program on a variety of supervisory topics. Holding their certificates are, from left, Jesse Perez, Charlie Madsen, Royal Baxter and Dave McGinnis. Seated from left are Alex Braun, Director of Training, George Mackin, Department Manager, Facilities, and Richard Kalman, Supervisor of Management and Operations Training.



The booth at the Pleasant Hill Station was the winner in the Holiday Decorations contest, administered each year by Station Operations. Runners-up were the Fremont, Orinda and Walnut Creek stations.



## AUTOMOBILE on TRIAL

Transit Alternative Day

Thursday, April 19

Lake Merritt Plaza

"Market smarts" has nothing to do with economical grocery shopping, as these members of the BART Common Wealth Investment Club can testify. Their objective is to study investment in stocks and they meet twice a month at LMA to talk stock. Seated are, from left, Corina Ninayahuar, Lourdes Watts, immediate past president, Barbara Oden, Starla Bahem, Linda Lang and March Heldt. Standing are, from left, Carol Asker, Christine Apple, Lillian Young, Gloria Martin, Lillian Curtis, Alice Delgado, president, Joan Nomura, Mary Roberts, Brenda Blue, Mable Hinton and Chris Laine.





*These two men take the cake, that's for sure! They were honored recently for their work-attendance records. Dave Bryant, left, Automatic Fare Control, has compiled a perfect attendance record of 15 years, and his BART colleague, Bob Draper, Communications and Component Repair, has racked up an 18-year record. Let's hope there was plenty of icing on that cake. They deserved it!*

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when the Purchasing Department holds another auction of items left by passengers on BART trains. The next auction will be held at the end of April or the first part of May at the LMA plaza. Forgotten items brought \$7,540 at the previous auction last September. Handling the gavel will be senior buyer for the Department, Al Verduzco.

Get your enthusiasm up and your running legs in shape! That's the message from Pete Avalos, who works in the tool room at the Oakland shops. Again this year, Avalos is heading up BART's participation in the San Francisco Examiner's 7.5-mile long Bay to Breakers run. Avalos needs 25 entries to make sure that BART's "centipede cars" are full. The day of the race? Sunday, May 20. Avalos' extension? 5331 or 6652. BART will pay your entry fee.

You can have a full-sized copy suitable for framing of the Public Utilities Commission resolution that commended all BART employees for their efforts in keeping BART running following the October 17 earthquake. Give Vicki Wills a call at LMA1 on 7115 to place your order.

We apologize, Ed! Here's the correct spelling of your name: Edward Collaco.

BARTalk notes with sadness the death in January of Charles Hayes, who worked for BART since 1972. He was known as "an excellent electrician, a good friend and a real gentleman." **b3**

## Black History Month: Salutes Five Black Railroad Inventors

By Glenda Coates

**A**s a revenue vehicle maintenance worker I'm often amazed as to the genius of how man could conceive the ideas and the conglomerations of it all by producing working vehicles such as the BART car. All the torquing, measuring, lubricating, cleaning, changing and testing of parts all started somewhere in people's minds, out of basic need.

Modern transportation has come a long way over the last 120 years, yet some of the earliest inventions are still being used today.

Five of these inventions specifically used at BART were born as early as 1812.

The "lubrication cup" which allowed small amounts of oil to drip continuously on moving parts of machinery while in operations, "self lubricating," saved industry time and labor cost. It also significantly increased business profits.

Our gratitude goes to Elijah J. McCoy. In time anyone who owned a self lubricating machine bragged of having the "real McCoy".

Lubrication plays a major part in vehicle maintenance today. It's just as important as lighting. Where would BART be without lights?

The invention of quality carbon filament from using the cellulose of cotton and bamboo in 1882 by Lewis Howard Latimer proved far superior to any other manufacturing process, because of its longevity. This invention took Latimer to the engineering department at the Edison Co. where he supervised the installation of the lighting systems for New York, Philadelphia, Canada and London.

In 1897 the invention of the Jenny Coupler, which enabled automatic coupling of rail cars, was a major breakthrough for railroad systems world wide. Manual coupling was a thing of the past, thanks to Andrew Jackson Beard.

Railroad workers no longer had to brace themselves between cars and drop a metal pin into place at the exact moment or risk being crushed to death or losing a limb as many did before the Jenny Coupler.

The best inventions yet to come were those of Graviile T. Woods. In 1901 he invented the electrical third rail. This is

the same third rail used by BART. Also an early forerunner of our PA-intercom and train radio system, was the Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph, which enabled train-to-train and station communication conductors to receive messages regarding obstacles in their way. It prevented many accidents.

BART maintenance workers are constantly reminded of "Safety First", stop look and listen. Be aware of the automatic traffic signals in the maintenance yards. Always wear safety equipment and respirators to prevent ingesting toxic particles and gases. Garrett A. Morgan, I thank you for your patented breathing devices of 1914 and your 1923 patented automatic traffic signals.

These five Americans contributed many things too numerous to mention. They all had one thing in common, they were black. February is nationally celebrated as "Black History Month". Gentlemen, I thank and salute you. **b3**

## Blood Drive

**W**ithin the next few weeks representatives in your work area will be contacting you to ask for your participation in this year's Blood Drive, which will be held on May 3 between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Metro Auditorium. **b3**



### BARTalk

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